

Judiciary Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

March 30, 2011

**IN SUPPORTING THE RAISED H. B. 6312 AN ACT CONCERNING THE RIGHTS OF A
PARENT OR GUARDIAN IN AN INVESTIGATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN
AND FAMILIES**

Dear Judiciary Committee,

My name is Pastor Brigitte Brown, and I reside at 214 Hart Street New Britain, CT 06052. I am a Pastor; Social Worker; Community Organizer; member of the Student Governance Council of Smalley Academy and the chairperson of the North-Oak Neighborhood Revitalization Zone. I represent Right Now Ministries, Inc in New Britain. The purpose of this letter is to ask if you can help with my efforts in supporting the Raised H. B. 6312 AN ACT CONCERNING THE RIGHTS OF A PARENT OR GUARDIAN IN AN INVESTIGATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES. The Judiciary Committee introduced this bill.

I must state that personally I would have been affected by a false 136 claim, which had been filed against me in 2005. But my advocating skills were applied, in order to stop this claim from being substantiated. I also had the proper documentation, and backing from my child's school administration, pediatrician and community residents who could concur that these allegations were false. Had I not had these supports and skills, I too would have been a victim of DCF. I would have been unable to become a Social Worker. It would be extremely useful for individuals who are being investigated by DCF, to have access to a lawyer, before they sign or speak to DCF. I have found, within my 12 years of working in the social work field, that cases were substantiated "just in case" there was any abuse, that had not been verified; or client's who were of Latino decent and did not understand English, would sign DCF "service plans" or forms without fully understanding what they were signing. I am in support of this bill, and I believe that this bill will begin to eliminate the disparities of the Latino and African American populations that are represented within the DCF system.

I appreciate all your help, and I hope that you can assist me in helping to pass the bill, which will allow this population of individuals to join the workforce and assist in making this state better!

Thank you for your time and considering my request. I can be directly reached at 860-770-2495 or rhabri@yahoo.com

Sincerely,

Pastor Brigitte P. Brown, MSW

Pastor Brigitte P. Brown, MSW
214 Hart Street
New Britain, CT 06052